

Summer Holiday Showdown: Programming for the Month of Av

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SUMMARY: In this session, we will go head-to-head in friendly competition while brainstorming and getting a head start on our programming for Tu B'Av and Tisha B'Av.

GOALS: Participants will gain new knowledge on general programming while building out and sharing ideas for programs they can run for 2 summer holidays at camp. They will also practice building a program from scratch.

AUDIENCE: Anyone

TIMING: 75 Minutes

MATERIALS: Flipchart with one page ripped out with two columns on it (one for Tu B'Av and one for Tisha B'Av), Markers, Paper, Pens, 3 Bowls or hats to put the choices for the program showdown, 2 copies of the Program Showdown choices, AV Holidays Source Sheet, Program Builder Template

SET-UP: Circle of chairs, flipchart, Program Showdown Choices cut up and placed in hats/bowls,

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:10 Introduction
- 00:10 - 00:15 Round 1 Parameter Selection
- 00:15 - 00:25 Round 1 Brainstorm in Groups
- 00:25 - 00:35 Round 1 Presentation
- 00:35 - 00:40 Debrief Round 1
- 00:45 - 00:50 Round 2 Parameter Selection
- 00:50 - 01:00 Round 2 Brainstorm in Groups
- 01:00 - 1:10 Round 2 Presentation
- 01:10 - 01:15 Closing

SESSION OUTLINE

- 00:00-00:10 Introduction
 - Go around the circle and share Names, Camps, and a tradition from your camp for either Tu B'Av or Tisha B'Av. As people go around, the leader should write down highlights from participants' answers and add them to the appropriate columns on a flipchart.
 - Once everyone has gone, the leader outlines the session and shares that we are first going to look at these two holidays, the traditions you know and do at camp, and use a Program Builder Template to design a program for both Tu B'Av and Tisha B'Av
 - Before diving into the Program Builder Template, frame the rest of the program by laying out the flow of the month of Av.
 - The Holidays in the month of Av follow a pattern in Jewish law and tradition; joy precedes sorrow. Jewish law states that if a wedding processional and a funeral meet in the street, the wedding must proceed first. Av follows this pattern by giving us a holiday of love to celebrate first and then time to reflect and mourn for a day of destruction.
 - Then, hand out summaries of each holiday and the Program Builder Template
 - Go around and have people share what elements of a write up are needed to make the perfect program. The goal of a program write up is that if you left it around camp, others could pick up the paper and run the program exactly like you wrote it.
- 00:10 - 00:15 Round 1 Parameter Selection
 - Divide the room into groups
 - A representative from each group will choose from 3 different piles:
 - Holiday
 - Age Group
 - Activity Time
 - Once each group has their choices, send them off to create a program for that holiday
- 00:15 - 00:25 Round 1 Brainstorm in Groups
- 00:25 - 00:35 Round 1 Presentation
 - Have one group present and then the other one has a turn
- 00:35 - 00:40 Debrief Round 1
 - Take a few minutes and have the groups share some feedback or ideas with the other and reset for round two!
- 00:45 - 00:50 Round 2 Parameter Selection
 - Each group has to do the other holiday they did not choose but should re-pick any of the other options.
- 00:50 - 01:00 Round 2 Brainstorm in Groups
- 01:00 - 1:10 Round 2 Presentation
 - Have one group present and then the other one has a turn
- 01:10 - 01:15 Closing

CORNERSTONE RESOURCE



- Ask the group how that felt! Is this an exercise you can use outside of programming for these two holidays? What ideas are you taking away from today?
- There will be a lot of ups and downs throughout the summer, just like the month of Av. Leave the group with the parting wisdom that we should take lead from our tradition. When things get tough, let the joy, fun, and happiness lead the way.

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP

You can use this for planning your summer activities or as a framework for a camper facing program.